

## Top 20 Wins in Corrections



Last year, nearly 16,000 offenders completed their period of incarceration and were released from the Department of Correction back to the community from which they came. Our goal is to improve public safety by enhancing offender monitoring, connectivity to the community, and transitional programming in order to insure that offenders are provided basic necessities that will allow them a

fair opportunity to successfully reintegrate into society as law abiding citizens.

Everyone can play a key role in ensuring the successful transition of individuals from prison to the community. It is a partnership that we need to strengthen if we expect to reduce the numbers of repeat offenders and break the cycle of crime in order to make Indiana safer place in which to live, work, play and visit.

This “Top 20 Wins in Corrections” highlights the last 20 months of progress the Department of Correction has made with the help of other federal, state and local agencies, as well as community partnerships towards improving the offender re-entry process. These improvements include new and better rehabilitative programs, stronger relationships with community stakeholders, and the incorporation of evidence-based best practices to better insure that offenders reintegrate successfully, or that those that are not yet ready for release are return to secured confinement before they can cause more serious harm.

Every day offers a chance for us to make a difference as we explore new ways to reduce criminal behavior. For those leaving prison, it is vital that they get the help they need in order to acquire basic housing, transportation, and employment, so they can become productive citizens. To this end, I invite all of you to join the Department in creating a new chapter in Indiana for a successful Road to Re-entry.

We can do this together.

Re-Entry is everybody's business.

**J. David Donahue, Commissioner**

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20. The Department is continually seeking opportunities for further funding of offender programs. Most recently, the Department was awarded two million dollars over five years in federal funding to implement the **Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP)**. PREP is a skills-based marriage education and preparation program for incarcerated fathers and their spouses/partners to promote healthy marriages.

*To continue efforts and partnerships,  
we need your help. Everyone plays a key role in  
ensuring the successful transition of individuals  
from prison to the community. The Indiana  
Department of Correction invites you to support  
re-entry in Indiana by volunteering your time,  
efforts, and resources.*

*Please visit the Road to Re-Entry Website at:  
**[www.reentry.in.gov](http://www.reentry.in.gov)***

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15. The Department and the U.S. Department of Labor begin the **Printing Apprenticeship Program** at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in August, 2006. This program gives offenders the opportunity to earn certification as print journeymen from the U.S. Department of Labor.
16. Prison Enterprise Network (PEN) Products, a division of the Indiana Department of Correction, recently teamed up with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to **feed Indiana's Hungry (FIH)**. This is an opportunity for DNR and DOC to work together to make food available to those Hoosiers who are not able to feed their families without assistance.
17. In October, the Correctional Industrial Facility in Pendleton, Indiana, held its **first Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) graduation**. The 105 graduating offenders and their family members celebrated the success of the participants.
18. Indiana Department of Correction auctioned off several state vehicles which have been restored by offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, Plainfield Correctional Facility, and Westville Correctional Facility in October. The **vehicle restoration program** is a part of the offender vocational program. After the vehicles are sold at auction, the proceeds will be donated to the Victims of Violent Crimes Fund, which is administered by the Criminal Justice Institute.
19. DOC Offender Work Crews from all parts of the state have supplied countless hours of labor during the **Spring Clean Up and Fall Foliage Clean Up programs**. Offender Work Crews also assisted in the clean up of storm damage, the State Fair and various other events and situations throughout the year.



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1. January 2006, Governor Mitch Daniels and the Department of Correction, along with state and local officials, unveiled the new **Indiana Sheriff's Sex Offender Registry**.
2. The Department, through its Staff Development and Training Division, implemented a **"JAIL SAFE" program** in August 2006. "JAIL SAFE" is refresher training for statewide jailers. A myriad of corrections best practices, law enforcement, and mental health issues are presented at a northern and southern site, twice a month, every other month; for flexibility in scheduling and attendance for Indiana Sheriff's. Departmental experts and professional staff throughout Indiana present current methodologies towards enhancing the knowledge, professionalism, and safety of Hoosier jailers.
3. The Department hosted the **Road to Re-entry: What Works in Recovery Conference** in February.
4. On April 27, 2006 Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) board of directors approved a request to administer a program to provide **tenant-based rental assistance to ex-offenders**.
5. The **graduation for the first female Meth Treatment Program** was held in April 2006, at the Rockville Correctional Facility.



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6. Department of Correction **staff and offenders donated their time, talents and effort to Habitat for Humanity** during May of 2006.



7. In May 2006, Westville Correctional Facility dedicated offenders to a project designed to provide toys to area kids in need. **Wooden toys, crafted by offender workers are provided to Dunbrook Child Services** to be used during play therapy, provide job skills to offenders.



8. In June 2005, the Department opened 3 pilot PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) units. By October 2006, the Department has expanded to 16 PLUS units, run by volunteers at no cost to Indiana taxpayers. The program's purpose is to provide an opportunity for participants to explore and choose alternatives to criminal thinking and behavior through an emphasis on spiritual, moral, and character development, life-skills training and intentional preparation for living as a law-abiding citizen who contributes to the well-being of his community.

9. **Second Chance at Life: Greyhound and Offenders Prison Partnership** was implemented at four DOC facilities in June of 2006. Offender handlers work with retired greyhound racing dogs to socialize the dogs so that they can be adopted by families. Offenders gain job skills and accept the responsibility for their foster dogs.



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10. The Department of Correction launched the **Fugitive Watch Website** in June. This site features Fugitive Watch, a "community policing" database available to the general public which features: local wanted parole absconders and a toll-free number to report these fugitives. Working together with the public to promote public safety and security is a priority for the Department.

11. The official **Open House for the Plainfield Re-Entry and Educational Facility** was held July 19, 2006. This is the nation's first facility dedicated to the initiatives for successful re-entry. To help reintegrate offenders back to society, PREF creates an environment inside the facility that closely models what the offender can expect in the community upon release.

12. The Department offers various programs to provide offenders with parenting skills as well as the opportunity to use those newly acquired skills. Indiana Women's Prison offers a **Summer Camp program at the facility for the children of the female offenders**. The **InsideOut Dad program** at the Indiana State Prison offers the opportunity for incarcerated fathers to become more involved, responsible and committed fathers upon release.

13. DOC staff and offenders donated \$19,054.24 to **The Villages**, Indiana's largest non-for-profit therapeutic foster care provider, during **Project Backpack** during August of 2006. Backpacks made by offenders and school supplies donated by staff were a welcome sight for The Villages 500 kids returning to school.



14. The **Shifting Gears Recycled Bikes Program** was introduced in August of 2006. This program is another exciting work skills development program that will benefit offenders and communities. DOC partnering with the Bicycle Garage Indy and Volunteers of America to collect donated bicycles from the public and refurbish them at Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Indiana State Prison.